

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 NIC-01 IO-14 /109 W

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R 270909Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1778

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 8694

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: PRIMIN SPEAKS TO NATION

REF: SEOUL 8661

1. PRIME MINISTER KIM CHONG-PIL DELIVERED ONE-HOUR-FORTY-MINUTE POLITICAL SPEECH ALONG LINES FORECASTRETEL ON TELEVISION EVENING OF DECEMBER 26.

2. PRIMIN RULED OUT ANY CHANGE IN YUSHIN CONSTITUTION AND DECLARED THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD "DEAL WITH" THOSE WHO CLAMOR FOR REVISION. PRIMIN REAFFIRMED JUSTIFICATION FOR REVITALIZATION--THAT KOREA MUST MAXIMIZE ITS STRENGTH TO SURVIVE IN THE FACE OF SHIFTING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND CONTINUED PRESSURE FROM THE NORTH. HE APPEALED FOR UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT, APOLOGIZING FOR GOVERNMENT'S PAST MISTAKES, PLEDGING TO CONTINUE HIS DIALOGUE WITH SEGMENTS OF THE PUBLIC TO PROMOTE MUTUAL TRUST BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE, AND EXPRESSING HOPE GOVERNMENT COULD EXPAND BOUNDS OF FREEDOM AS SITUATION WARRANTED.

3. IN ADDITION ABOVE MAJOR POINT PRIME MINISTER SAID THE FOLLOWING:

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A. DESPITE SERIES OF CONFERENCES IN SEOUL AND PYONGYANG,

SOUTH-NORTH DIALOGUE HAS PRODUCED NO CONCRETE ACHIEVEMENTS AND NORTH UNILATERALLY DECLARED IT SUSPENDED LAST AUGUST. TALKS NOW RESUMED AND SOUTH WILL ACTIVELY PURSUE BROADER CONTACTS WITH NORTH, BUT WITH LITTLE HOPE FOR PROGRESS UNTIL NORTH SEES THE FUTILITY OF TRYING TO UNIFY KOREA BY COMMUNIZING THE SOUTH. AS LONG AS NORTH SEES CHANCE THAT DISORDER IN SOUTH WILL GIVE IT WHAT IT WANTS, PROGRESS IN THE DIALOGUE WILL BE DIFFICULT.

B. SITUATION AROUND NORTHWEST ISLANDS IS SERIOUS. NORTH KOREA'S INTRUSIONS INTO SOUTH'S TERRITORIAL WATERS HAVE RAISED TENSIONS. ALTHOUGH NORTH'S AIM IS NOT CLEAR, NO ONE CAN RULE OUT POSSIBILITY OF AN ATTACK ON THESE ISLANDS IF NORTH SHOULD DECIDE TO EXACERBATE SITUATION.

C. DESPITE BIG POWERS' EFFORTS FOR DETENTE, COLD WAR STILL PERSISTS. HE CITED NEAR EAST, INDOCHINA AND INDIA-PAKISTAN AS EXAMPLES OF RECENT CLASHES LINKED WITH CONTINUING BIPOLAR ALIGNMENTS.

4. OPPOSITION NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY SPOKESMAN COMMENTING ON PRIMIN'S SPEECH SAID APPEAL FOR PEOPLE TO TRUST THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT BE THE SAME AS DEMAND FOR OBEDIENCE AND SUBJUGATION. HE ADDED THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT ASK PEOPLE TO TRUST IT BUT SHOULD FIRST SHOW THAT IT IS TRUSTWORTHY. SPLINTER DEMOCRATIC UNIFICATION PARTY SPOKESMAN CALLED FOR OPEN DEBATE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

5. COMMENT: PRIMIN'S SPEECH, WHICH WAS MILD, PERSUASIVE SOFT SELL, NONETHELESS CLEARLY CONVEYED DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN ORDER. CARROT AND STICK APPROACH APPEARS DESIGNED TO CULTIVATE WIDE SUPPORT AND ISOLATE GOVERNMENT'S CRITICS. UNDERHILL

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